

BRIGID'S WELL 2009

KILDARA CENTRE



PROGRAMS
FOR ADULT SEARCHERS

WELCOME TO 2009

AT BRIGID'S WELL, KILDARA CENTRE

Aware that 2009 is the UN International Year of Astronomy and also the continuation of the year of St Paul, we continue to savour those words from Isaiah which inspired us so powerfully during 2008:

Enlarge the site of your tent and let the curtains of your habitation be stretched out: do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes (Is 54:2)

Again, we are being called on to open up our hearts and minds to new challenges and possibilities that arise in 2009. These challenges and possibilities may come from the voices we hear at Brigid's Well; they may come from the voices of those within the groups that we join; they may come from the wisdom of those who teach us, or even from those we meet in conversation; they may come from the books we read and from the issues we discuss; or they may come from our growing awareness of the cosmos of which we are part and the many needs of those around us.

Catriona Devlin

COVER PICTURE:

Logo for *CAIRDE BHRIDE : FRIENDS OF BRIGID* designed by talented local artist,

the late Rita Magris, who was very much part of Cairde Bhride, Brigid's Well Community and friend of Kildara Centre. Rita died in 2008.

OUR BRIGIDINE HERITAGE

THE BRIGIDINE STORY

The Congregation of Saint Brigid was founded on 1st February, 1807 by Bishop Daniel Delany in Tullow, Co. Carlow, Ireland. At that time in Ireland, men, women and children were denied human and religious freedom and were beset by destitution, unrest and crime because of the Penal Laws enforced by the civil authority of the time. Bishop Delany took strong, decisive action by founding the Sisters of Saint Brigid and the Brothers of Saint Patrick to address the needs of the people through educational opportunities. He chose Brigid of Kildare as the patroness of the new congregation of sisters.

BRIGID OF KILDARE

Brigid emerges from the countless legends that surround her name as a valiant woman, strong and gracious, a prophetic leader of women and men in the society of 5th Century Ireland. Brigid revolutionized the Irish society at the time by establishing religious communities that were centres of prayer and culture where the arts and crafts of Ireland were fostered. The stories we glean from the earliest *Vitae of Brigid* are replete with accounts of her ability to relate to the present moment. She is described as a woman who always responded with practical generosity to each person in need, standing before her.

BRIGID'S WELL

From ancient times the Celts have venerated various water sources, especially wells, as sacred places, which lead to the otherworld, and provide wisdom, healing and hope to the wayfarer. It is no accident that many ancient wells still exist today around Ireland and Scotland, named after Brigid. Like the oases in desert places, these wells have become associated with hospitality, healing, compassion and hope for all who stop there awhile. Today, we hope that the Brigid's Well offered at Kildara Centre, provides a similar haven for hospitality, learning, hope, healing and challenge, for all who come.

ABOUT KILDARA CENTRE

THE VOICES THAT GATHER AT KILDARA CENTRE

The voices that gather around Brigid's Well, at Kildara Centre are in a sense no different from the voice of the woman who met Jesus at the well, or the voices that gathered around the well of Brigid in earlier times: they are voices that seek and offer compassion and hope to one another; they are voices that are longing to be heard and responded to with love and respect; they are well known voices and they are voices of strangers; they are voices that search for new answers to age old questions; they are voices that seek and offer life-giving experiences...

Come and join the voices at Kildara Centre and find a way to tap into the wealth of your own heritage. Hopefully, you will find here a place of refreshment, nourishment and hospitality to energize you with hope and vitality for your own life.

ASPECTS OF THE BRIGID'S WELL PROGRAM

Unless otherwise indicated, the Brigid's Well courses take place at Kildara Centre. Most are offered during the day because these tend to attract the larger numbers. However, it may be possible to repeat some courses and groups in the evenings, if the numbers are viable. Please contact Catriona if you are interested in developing this aspect of our program

HOSPITALITY

Tea and coffee etc are always available for those who would simply like to call in for a chat. There is also a lovely outdoor courtyard area, and a quiet library area, suitable for those who would prefer to read or reflect.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Several outreach programs are organized and sponsored by Brigid's Well:

- Asylum Seekers and refugee support;
- Migrant support
- Knitting and crocheting for the needy
- Support for *Women for Women in Africa*

If you are interested in any of these, or in initiating a new one, please call Kildara Centre on 9509 7906.

BOOKINGS AND DONATIONS

Entry to most sessions is normally by donation, to contribute to the costs involved. Sometimes a suggested donation is stated. This is always much appreciated. Bookings are always necessary in advance. Please phone Kildara Centre on 9509 7906. Some courses attract a fee as indicated. It is always advisable to check dates with Kildara Centre in case there have been changes to the advertised program. Occasionally programs are cancelled because of insufficient numbers.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Direction can be arranged. Information is available at Kildara Centre on 9509 7906. Direct contact can be made with the following Spiritual Directors, who will arrange appointments, as appropriate:

Dorothea Pini csb (9580 0151)

Trish Murray op (9880 7921)

CREDENTIAL

A statement of attendance at sessions for credential purposes can be provided on request.

KILDARA CENTRE CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Kildara Centre is available to professional groups for bookings for seminars, workshops etc. Please phone 9509 7906 for information, tariffs and an application form. Application forms are also available on line: www.kildaracentre.org

POTENTIAL PRESENTERS & COURSES

If you know of anyone interested in presenting courses, recitals, workshops, art exhibitions etc. who would like to use the Kildara Centre facilities and/ or participate in the Brigid's Well program, contact Catriona on 9509 7906

BRIGID'S WELL COMMUNITY

This is the group which supports the functioning of the Brigid's Well at Kildara Centre. Its particular aims include: breaking open the Word, exploring spirituality, learning about the Celtic tradition and its relevance for today and supporting the Brigid's Well Program. The Community meets about six times a year on Friday evenings from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. If you are interested in joining this community or you would like further information and dates please phone Catriona on 9509 7906.

CAIRDE BRIDHE: FRIENDS OF BRIGID

CAIRDE BHRIDE: FRIENDS OF BRIGID is a recently established movement which includes many different people in its circle of friendship. It is "an association of people enlivened by the Brigid tradition who share common interests based on a view of society that is inclusive and founded on right relationships". Material for reading/reflection is sent out regularly to members and a newsletter is published three times a year. There is also an annual gathering of members. This year Kildara Centre is offering a monthly evening reading circle for sharing some of the readings provided (See page 21). If you are interested in finding out more about this movement please contact Catriona (9509 7906) or Margaret (9682 2971).

INVITATION TO JOIN *FRIENDS OF KILDARA CENTRE*

To be sure you are on our mailing list for all Booklets and monthly updates and flyers, it is recommended that you fill in your details on the appropriate form (enclosed), and offer a \$10 annual donation to Kildara Centre. This helps defray postal costs, which at present are quite considerable. The flyers have become an increasingly important part of our communication, as sometimes there are changes, cancellations and additions to the program as advertised in February.

KILDARA CENTRE TEAM

Kildara Centre is administered by the Brigidine Sisters, Victorian Province.

Catriona Devlin	9509 7906
Ursula Nihill	9509 6624
Marie O' Kelly	9509 6624

VOLUNTEERS

Kildara Centre has a growing number of generous volunteers who give time to helping with hospitality, gardening, archives, library and accounts. If you would like to assist in these or other ways on a regular or occasional basis, please contact Catriona (9509 7906)

SOME RESOURCES OFFERED AT KILDARA CENTRE

A PLACE FOR REFLECTION FOR BUSY PEOPLE

We live in an age when “going apart to a peaceful place to pray” is quite a luxury for most of us, so we need to become more imaginative about creating some regular spaces for this in our busy lives. Whilst Kildara Centre is oftentimes a very busy place, there are still times when it is suitable for private reflection and retreat. There is no overnight accommodation but the Centre is well situated in terms of public transport, and parking is generally available. It is possible to make a directed “Retreat in Daily Life” with Patricia Murray op, or a private retreat, simply using the peaceful atmosphere at Brigid’s Well and the library and music facilities there. Please feel free to contact us for details and possible dates.

LITURGY PLANNING ASSISTANCE

CATRIONA DEVLIN

There are times when you may wish to plan a personalised liturgy or ritual to suit a particular occasion: wedding, funeral, christening or other significant event. It is generally helpful to talk over themes, songs, prayers and other possibilities to help make your celebration as meaningful as possible.

This can be arranged at Brigid’s Well, Kildara Centre for a small group or on an individual basis. Please note that we do not provide a publishing service.

Please feel free to contact Catriona by phone on 9509 7906 or by email at kildara@netspace.net.au to arrange an appropriate date and time.

BRIGID CROSSES

From time to time people are looking for Brigid Crosses. We keep a reasonable supply of these peace crosses, hand made by the AFRI movement (a movement in Ireland which works for Justice and Peace in Ireland and the third world). They sell for \$5.00 plus postage and GST. Contact Kildara Centre for details.

BRIGIDINE ARCHIVES

MARIE O'KELLY, URSULA NIHILL

Kildara Centre houses the heritage centre and archives of the Victorian Province of the Brigidine Sisters. Enquiries are always welcome.

KILDARA CENTRE LIBRARY

MARIE O'KELLY, URSULA NIHILL

Kildara Centre has an excellent library which is housed upstairs in the Delany Room. The library consists of over 2000 books and some audio visual materials which are available for loan. Although most of the resources are religious, there is a wide variety, especially on Celtic topics. The religious resources include theological, biblical, spirituality and prayer topics as well as some on non Christian religions, Church history and biographies. A small selection of fiction is also available.

The library is open whenever courses are operating and you are welcome to come and browse in the peaceful atmosphere of Kildara Centre, whilst enjoying a cuppa as well; at other times the library can be made available by arrangement. "Open days" will be arranged and advertised in advance.

Books can be borrowed for four weeks, or, in the case of students, a longer time can be arranged.

For further information phone Marie or Ursula on 9509 6624

CELEBRATING & LEARNING FROM BRIGID OF KILDARE

LIGHTING THE LAMP FOR BRIGID FOR 2009

This is a tradition we have each year, to launch the Brigid's Well program for the year. This year, we celebrate it on Candlemas Day, February 2. All are welcome to gather to *light the lamp* for 2009 and participate in a simple ritual and blessing, followed by light refreshments and some good *craic*. Come and join us if you are free, and recharge your batteries for the year ahead.

Date	Monday, February 2
Time	11.00 am - 12.30 pm
Venue	Kildara Centre
Cost	Donation appreciated

BRIGIDINE BRIGID FEST 2009

"BRIGID – WOMAN OF THE EARTH"

This annual gathering of Brigidines and their friends will take the form of a simple pilgrimage in Brigid's honour around Brigid's Place at Kilbreda College, Mentone. The ritual will be followed by afternoon tea. Bookings can be made directly to Heather, Province Secretary at 9509 0361 or by fax 9500 9221 or email: csbsecretary@brigidine.com.au

Date :	Sunday, February 8
Time:	2.00 pm - 4.00pm
Venue:	Kilbreda College, Mentone Parade. Mentone (enter off Como Parade West)

CELTIC CLUB BRIGID FEST 2009

This has become an annual celebration of Brigid, with lunch, a speaker, and entertainment, at the Celtic Club (Cnr. Latrobe & Queen Sts Melbourne.) Date is Sunday, 1 February at 12.30pm. Cost is \$40. The 2009 Speaker is Dr Dianne Hall: *Brigid's Sisters – Women in the Church in Medieval Ireland*. Contact Helen Mohan 9670 6472 for bookings.

DANIEL DELANY DAY

BRIGIDINE HISTORY & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Whilst this annual celebration of the founder of the Brigidine Sisters is primarily about the spirit and vision of Daniel Delany, it is closely connected with Brigid because of Delany's stated intention that he was "refounding the ancient order of Brigid". All those who are already in partnership with us in various groups are invited to this gathering. For further details of our 2009 celebration, please contact us at Kildara Centre.

Date: Saturday, July 25
Time: 9.30am - 2.00pm
Venue: Kildara Centre, Malvern

CAIRDE BHRIDE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

CAIRDE BHRIDE COORDINATING GROUP

As part of the commitment of the Cairde Bhride: Friends of Brigid movement, an annual gathering is offered to celebrate and explore the relevance of the Brigid tradition for our time and for the future.

Date: Saturday, October 17
Time: 9.30 – 2.00pm
Venue: Kildara Centre, Malvern

For further details of our 2009 celebration, please contact us at Kildara Centre.

ST PATRICK'S DAY 2009

CELTIC BBQ AND CEILIDH

Enjoy a BBQ meal, combined with Irish ale and a ceilidh atmosphere, around the Well of Brigid, together with family, friends and community. Entertainment provided by various Celtic groups and soloists.

Date: Tuesday, March 17

Time: 6.00pm– 9.30pm (BBQ fires light up at 6.00pm)

Cost: Donation appreciated, to help cover catering costs.

Enjoy the sunshine and some good company out in the courtyard, around the BBQ...



THE WORLD OF OUR ANCESTORS

MARIE STACK

This group meets monthly to look at various aspects of the world and culture of our forebears. The group began with a particular interest in Celtic culture but in 2009 it plans to enlarge its vision to encompass various ancient and more recent cultures that give us insight about contemporary life. The group generally meets on the last Thursday of the month and welcomes new members interested in history, archaeology, folklore and culture and their relevance for today. Topics and presenters are listed where possible, so you can simply choose to come according to your interest in a particular topic. Alternatively, you may wish to present a particular topic. If so, please contact Marie Stack c/- Kildara Centre.

March 26	<i>Viking Mythology</i> (Dr Katrina Burge)
April 30	<i>Ancient Greece: The Epicureans</i> (Rev Denis Woodbridge)
May 28	To be advised
June 25	<i>The 1798 Irish Rebellion and its consequences</i> (Sr Catherine Kelly)
July 30	<i>Sacred Sites: early medieval sites, sacred sites in Australia, particularly Aboriginal sites, and sites sacred for Australians around the world.</i> (Rev Gwen Masters)
August 27	To be advised
October 29	To be advised
November 26	<i>The Green Man</i> in ancient art & archaeology (Sr Denise Doyle)

Time: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm (refreshments included)

Cost: Donation appreciated

Coordinator: Marie Stack

STARS, STONES, SAGES AND SOCIETY IN THE ANCIENT CELTIC AND PROTO CELTIC WORLD

DENISE DOYLE

This course, in two parts, is intended to inform our celebration of 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy. Although Astronomy became a science from the 17th century, recognition of the power exerted by celestial patterns contributed to the vibrancy of pre-literate and classical cultures. Humanity has always struggled to understand the power of what is, seen and unseen, to mediate human destiny. Cosmic power became personified in images and in cultural narratives of divine intervention and heroic deeds. The soul of our ancestors was expressed in the enigmas like Stonehenge, Newgrange, Bryn Celli Ddu, Hagar Quim, Solomon's Temple...The wonder of that which had no shape, no smell, no appearance, left no mark as it passed, but controlled the rhythm of all life, led to the measurement of time...

The course will explore the elusive wisdom of ancient Europeans whose life experience was surprising, sometimes coherent, sometimes dramatically explosive and profoundly mysterious, one in which the sacred could not remain remote.

Dates	PART 1	May 5, 12, 19, 26
	PART 2	July 28, August 4, 11, 18
Time	10.00 – 12.00noon (refreshments included)	
Cost	Donation appreciated	
Presenter	Denise Doyle	

WOMEN, GENDER AND SANCTITY

ANN TRINDADE

This course looks at some of the female role models of holiness from the medieval period and the influence this thinking has had on our more recent and contemporary Church models of holiness

Dates	Fridays, 5, 12, 19, 26 June
Time	10.00 – 12.00noon
Cost	Donation appreciated
Presenter	Ann Trindade

VOICES OF WISDOM

CATRIONA DEVLIN

This series will explore some of the contemporary voices of wisdom amongst our poets, artists, philosophers, writers, theologians, film makers, astronomers... Whilst the course is based at Kildara Centre, it incorporates field excursions to the Art Gallery and Planetarium.

Dates Fridays, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15, 22, 29

Time 10.00 – 12.00noon (refreshments included)

Cost Donation appreciated

Facilitator Catriona Devlin

FEMININE IMAGES IN *THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES*

CATRIONA DEVLIN

This course will explore some of the feminine themes and images in the novel, *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Making use of the recently released film of the same name, and Amy Linitz Harkin's Book, *Unveiling the Secret Life of Bees*, the course will bring some of these images and themes into conversation with the Judaeo Christian scriptures.

Dates Fridays, August 7, 14, Sept 4, 11, 18

Time 10.00am – 12.00noon (refreshments included)

Cost Donation appreciated

Presenter Catriona Devlin

ROUND TABLE VOICES AT THE WELL

Join us for a meal around the table to hear significant voices today as they address current issues and provoke stimulating conversation. The evening begins with dinner at 6.30pm. The speaker's presentation is generally after the first course and is followed by dessert, coffee, questions and conversation, concluding at approximately 9.15pm. Entry is by donation to help defray catering costs and to enable an appropriate payment to be made to the presenter.

Tuesday, March 10 is our opening night for 2009 and our presenter will be Najaf Mazari, whose compelling biography, *The Rugmaker of Mazar – E Sharif* co-authored by Robert Hillman, is the first book this year for the Monday Book Group.

Other dates for 2009 are; May 12, June 9, Sept 8, Nov 17

Please note that bookings at least a week in advance are essential for each of the above evenings, as they are very popular and catering is provided according to the numbers booked.

KILDARA CAFÉ

MARGARET CASSIDY, CATRIONA DEVLIN

Come and enjoy time with people who love to discuss recent writings and current issues. Bring articles, newspaper cuttings and books you find stimulating and want to share with others. You will quickly find yourself in a conversation that promises to be both casual and robust! Generally this vibrant group meets on the second Monday of the month.

Dates	Feb 9, March 16, May 11, June 15, July 13, Aug 10, Sept 7, Oct 12, Nov 16, Dec 14
Time	2.00 – 3.30pm (refreshments included)
Cost	Donation appreciated
Facilitators	Margaret Cassidy, Catriona Devlin

PRAYER AND REFLECTION OPPORTUNITIES SCRIPTURE BASED CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

MARIA GUINAN, URSULA NIHILL

THE JOHN BARRY CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

This group was founded by John Barry cm in 1998 and we dedicate its continuation to his memory. These prayer sessions usually look at the Scripture of the day or of the following Sunday. After some brief introduction and discussion there is a period of 30 minutes of quiet for meditation. Generally these sessions are on the fourth Monday of the month.

Dates: Feb 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22
July 27, Aug24, Oct 26, Nov 23

Time 11.00am – 12.45pm (refreshments included)

Cost Donation appreciated

Facilitators Maria Guinan, Ursula Nihill

SEASONAL PRAYER CELEBRATIONS

CATRIONA DEVLIN AND OTHERS

These prayer opportunities will mark both the natural seasons and some of the Church's liturgical seasons, with a time of shared reflection.

Dates	Wednesday, Mar 25	Welcome to Autumn & Preparation for Holy Week & Easter
	Wednesday, June 24	Welcome to Winter
	Wednesday, Sept 9	Welcome to Spring
	Wednesday, Dec 8	Welcome to Summer & Advent & Preparation for Christmas
	Time	2.00 – 3.30pm
	Cost	Donation appreciated

REFLECTION DAYS AT THE WELL

These reflection days are spread throughout the year, on different days of the week. They are in response to the requests of many participants who express the need for some time out for personal and spiritual enrichment. Each day will take a particular theme, advertised in our monthly updates

Dates: Thurs April 23; Wed June 17; Sat Aug 8; Wed Oct 21

Time: 10.00am – 2.30pm (BYO lunch, other refreshments provided)

Cost: Donation appreciated

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

CATRIONA DEVLIN & OTHERS

This is an annual ecumenical prayer opportunity which is offered at many venues across the world. In 2009 we will host a session in the afternoon at Kildara Centre. This year's worship theme is *In Christ we are many members, yet one body*. The prayer itself has been prepared by the women of Papua New Guinea.

Please feel free to invite your friends to come with you to this time of prayer, uniting ourselves with many others throughout the world.

Date: Friday, March 6

Time: 1.30 – 3.30pm (refreshments included)

Cost: An “offering” is made as part of the worship service. This goes to support the ongoing work of the World Day of Prayer.

NURTURING OUR CREATIVITY

ANGELA'S NEEDLERS

ANGELA O' BRIEN

This is the place to be if you are interested in embroidery, needlework, knitting or crochet, and you like doing it with company! Come with something you have already begun or something you would like to begin.

Dates: Wednesdays, Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1,
Later dates to be announced

Time: 2.00pm – 3.30pm (refreshments included)

Cost: Donation appreciated

Facilitator: Angela O' Brien

JO'S QUILTING AND PATCHWORK

JOANNE KRAUSE

This is generally a monthly course which caters for both beginners and more advanced quilters. This year there will be some additional sessions during some months. The group has been going for some time but new members are always welcome.

Dates: Wednesdays February 11, March 11, April 22,
May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24, July 15, Aug 12 & 26
September 9, Oct 14 & 28, Nov 18, Dec 9

Time: 10.00am -12.00noon (refreshments included)

Cost: Donation appreciated

Facilitator: Joanne Krause

VERONICA'S CRAFTY CORNER

VERONICA JOYCE

Come and join Veronica in this very creative adventure of making all kinds and styles of cards for any and all occasions. In these sessions Veronica will help participants make different cards, using a variety of materials. You will enjoy the company, the conversation and above all, the artistry that is hidden within each person.

You will need a pencil, a ruler, small sharp scissors, soft mouse pad, quilling tool, embossing tool/paper shaper, tweezers and textas for each session. All other materials provided.

Dates Mondays Mar 2, 16, 23 April 20, 27 (or May 4); July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10; Oct 12, 19, 26, Nov 9, 16

Time 2.00pm – 4.00pm. (Refreshments included)

Cost: Donation appreciated

Facilitator Veronica Joyce

WRITERS' OASIS

CATRIONA DEVLIN

This is a group for those who seek encouragement in their writing: poetry, short story, scriptwriting, novel writing, memoir, autobiography.... The group meets monthly to share and critique each other's efforts on an agreed task. It is intended that occasionally the group will be treated to hearing from the wisdom of invited guests who are already published writers in various genres. At least one writers' weekend retreat is planned.

Dates Tuesdays, Feb 24, Mar 24, April 28, May 26, June 23,
July 28, Sept 15, Oct 27, Nov 24,

Time 2.00pm – 4.00pm (refreshments included)

Cost Donation appreciated

Facilitator Catriona Devlin

BRIGID'S WELL BOOK GROUPS AND FILM CIRCLE

BARBARA HORRIGAN, CATRIONA DEVLIN, CHRISTINE CONSTABLE

Come and join a small group gathered around *the well* to read, discuss, argue, laugh, enjoy each other's company and share insights about books chosen by the group. You can choose to join either the Monday group or the Thursday group, or even both, if you are an avid reader! Additionally, this year we have some evening groups as well - Cairde Bhride Reading Circle, a group sharing some theological works by contemporary authors and a film circle.

MONDAY GROUP

BARBARA HORRIGAN

The group will begin the year with the book *The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif* by Najaf Masari and Robert Hillman (Insight Publications, 2008)

Dates: First Monday of the following months;
March 2, May 4, June 1, August 3, September 7,
October 5, Nov 9, Dec 7

Time: 10.00am - 12 noon (refreshments included)

Facilitator: Barbara Horrigan

THURSDAY GROUP

CATRIONA DEVLIN

The group will begin the year with the book *People of the Book* by Australian author, Geraldine Brooks (Harper Collins, 2008).

Dates: Third Thursday of the following months:
Feb 19, March 19, May 21, June 18,
Aug 20, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19

Time: 10.00am - 12noon (refreshments included)

Facilitator: Catriona Devlin

EVENING BOOK GROUP

CATRIONA DEVLIN

This group will begin the year with *Whisper of Spirit: A Believable God Today* by Anthony Campbell, SJ (Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008 – available from Pauline Books & Media, Hawthorn).

Dates: Mondays, April 20, May 11, June 15, Aug 3,
Oct 12, Nov 16
Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm (refreshments included)
Cost: Donation appreciated
Facilitator: Catriona Devlin

CAIRDE BHRIDE READING CIRCLE

CATRIONA DEVLIN, URSULA NIHILL

This is a group that gathers to read and share some of the reading material regularly sent out to members of Cairde Bhride. Those who are not members of Cairde Bhride are also welcome to join this reading circle.

Dates: Wednesdays, 11 March, 13 May, 10 June,
12 Aug, 9 Sept, 14 Oct, 25 Nov.
Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm (refreshments included)
Facilitators: Catriona Devlin, Ursula Nihill

FILM CIRCLE

CHRISTINE CONSTABLE

This is a group interested in meeting bi – monthly to discuss films that have helped to shape our lives and our values. The relaxed atmosphere of a pizza & wine meal should enable some deep reflection and vigorous discussion!

Dates: Fridays, Feb 27, May 1, July 17, Sept 11, Nov 20
Time: 6.00 – 9.00pm (refreshments included)
Cost: Donation appreciated
Facilitator: Christine Constable

OTHER GROUPS THAT MEET REGULARLY AT KILDARA CENTRE

SCOTTISH GAELIC CHOIR (VICTORIA)

The Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria meets regularly at the Kildara Centre for choir practices on most Tuesdays, 7.30 – 9.30pm during school term time. New members are always welcome. There is no need for fluency in Gaelic, as help with pronunciation is provided. What you do need are an ear and a heart for Celtic music!

Choir begins for 2009 on Tuesday Feb 3, at 7.30pm

For further details contact Joan Mitchell (9561 7246) or Catriona at Kildara Centre.

ST JOSEPH'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

This is a group within St Joseph's Parish which meets regularly on the third Tuesday each month after Mass (9.30am – 12 noon) for lunch and friendship. When possible the meetings are held at Kildara Centre. The first meeting for this year on Feb 17 will be held at St Joseph's Presbytery.

Remaining dates for 2009: Mar 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21
Aug 18, Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15

New members always welcome. Contact St Joseph's Parish for more details (9508 7200).

CLAIMING OUR ANCESTORS

MARIE WATT

Have you ever wondered about the lives of those who have gone before?
About those influential in shaping who you are?

Through a variety of creative activities, this course aims to explore connections and to deepen relationships with the ancestors, whether these be physical or simply spiritual and emotional.

Dates: Mondays, 16, 23, 30 March

Time: 7.00 – 9.00pm (refreshments included)

Cost: Donation

Facilitator: Marie Watt

ANGELS OF MORTALITY: GROWING OLDER GRACEFULLY

MARIE WATT

This course explores the writings of three women - May Sarton, Marion Woodman and Helen Luke – who manage life's late afternoon, with grace and dignity. There will be an opportunity to reflect upon their journal writings and to make connections with one's own inner journey.

Dates: Mondays, Aug 31, Sept 7, 14

Time: 7.00 – 9.00pm (refreshments included)

Cost: Donation

Facilitator: Marie Watt

EARTHSONG SERIES

ANNE BOYD

Canticle to the Cosmos is a twelve part series of presentations by Brian Swimme telling the scientific story of the Universe with a feeling for its sacred nature.

How important it is that we learn the sacred story of our Evolutionary Universe, just as we have learned our cultural/religious stories. Each day we will begin to do what humans do best. Be amazed! Be filled with reverence! Contemplate! Fall in love! Be entranced by the wonder of the Universe, the uniqueness of each being. The beauty of creation, its new revelation each day, and the Divine presence within all!

Mary Southard rsj

In this three part course we will use three segments of the Canticle for our reflection and ritual:

FEAST OF CONSCIOUSNESS	Wed March 18
THE MAGICAL PLANET	Wed April 23
DESTRUCTION AND LOSS	Wed May 20

All sessions commence at 7.30pm. Registration \$10 per session

Facilitators: Anne Boyd and EarthSong Team

WOMEN AND ST PAUL

CORALIE LING

The situation of women in the Greco Roman world of the first century was quite precarious (many girl babies were exposed at birth). Nevertheless women played an active role in the early Christian movement leading house churches, and as teachers, prophets and missionaries. We will look at the story a leading woman and her community in four places where Paul made connections.

- Lydia and the women at Phillipi
- Junia and the women in Rome
- Priscilla the women in Corinth
- The legendary Thecla and the women of Antioch

Primary sources referred to: Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Philippians and the Acts of Paul and Thecla. A bibliography will be provided.

Dates	Thursdays, April 23, 30, May 7, 14
Time	7.00 – 9.00pm (refreshments included)
Cost	Donation
Presenter	Coralie Ling

LIVING ONE FOR THE OTHER: EUCHARIST AND AN EARTHLY INTERDEPENDENCE

ANNE ELVEY

This is an opportunity to reflect on Eucharist as a sacrament of the Earth community, under the themes: hospitality and sacrifice; communion without communion; matter and grace. The sessions will draw on Teilhard de Chardin's "Mass on the World" and work by contemporary eco theologians, including Mary Grey, Anne Primavesi and Denis Edwards. Additionally there will be ecological reflection on the biblical feeding and last supper narratives.

Dates:	Thursdays, 15, 22, 29 October
Time:	7.00 – 9.00pm (refreshments included)
Cost:	Donation
Presenter:	Anne Elvey

OTHER POSSIBILITIES DURING 2009

BRIDGE – BUILDERS GROUP

JENNIFER LE MARSHALL

If there is sufficient interest in playing Bridge or learning to play Bridge, this group will meet monthly during 2009. As yet no dates have been fixed. Please contact Jennifer Le Marshall c/- Kildara Centre if you are interested.

TOUR TO NED KELLY COUNTRY

PHILLIP MOORE

This tour will take us to the very sites, towns, villages and landscapes where Ned and his family, his “gang” and communities experienced life: Beveridge, Avenel, Euroa, Benalla, Glenrowan, Greta, Powers Lookout, Stringybark Creek, Mansfield and Melbourne. The purpose of the trip is to gain a sense of the place and the prevailing social and law enforcement conditions of the time. At a time when we are being encouraged to explore an Australian spirituality, it becomes important to consider some of the darker sides of our history and explore why these events happened. As part of the preparation for this tour, a reading circle will be formed and readings provided.

For further details, bookings and information contact Phillip Moore

(phone: 9850 4468; email: Mrphillmoore@aol.com)

THE CHURCH AND GALILEO TODAY

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER TOOHEY

Noted astronomer, Bishop Christopher Toohey from Willcanda Forbes Diocese in NSW has been invited to speak on this topic as part of the UN International Year of Astronomy. Details not yet confirmed.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 09 BRIGID'S WELL PROGRAM

ANNE BOYD

Anne, a Brigidine Sister, is a very highly regarded educator with extensive experience in teaching, leadership and administration. Having recently studied in Ireland and America, Anne is deeply committed to the task of inviting others into a deeper awareness of humans as integral members of the total life community.

KATRINA BURGE

Katrina is an experienced lecturer on the staff at the University of Melbourne in the school of Language and Linguistics/ German Russian and Swedish Studies. Her special interest and passion is that fascinating and dangerous period of medieval history, which includes the Vikings.

MARGARET CASSIDY

Margaret, a Brigidine Sister, is an educator with much experience in leadership and administration in Catholic and Ecumenical secondary schooling as well as in teacher education. Margaret has a passion for promoting social justice today and has a strong belief in the power of conversation to bring about change.

CATH CONNELLY

Cath has degrees in Counselling and a Graduate Diploma in Spirituality and has recently completed her Master of Arts in Spirituality. She is passionate about sharing her ideas on creative spirituality. She is usually accompanied by her Celtic harp and delights people with her love of this instrument.

CHRISTINE CONSTABLE

Christine is a Brigidine Sister with wide experience in both primary and secondary education. She has also spent two years working in Mexico. At present Christine is Religious Education Coordinator at Killester College, in Springvale and is completing her Masters in Theology. She has a love of film and the power it has in our lives.

MARY DENNETT

Mary is a Sister of Mercy who has many years of experience as an educator and administrator. Her recent studies in America have fuelled her passion for exploring the revelatory nature of the Universe, in terms of God.

CATRIONA DEVLIN

Catriona is a Brigidine Sister with wide experience in teaching, leadership, spirituality and liturgy. She is currently the Director of Kildara Centre and the Coordinator of the Brigid's Well Program.

DENISE DOYLE

Denise, a Sister of Mercy, is an educator with both teaching and leadership experience in Catholic Secondary education. Denise has both a Master of Arts and a Master of Philosophy in Celtic Studies from the University of Sydney.

ROSE DUFFY

Rose, a Brigidine Sister, has been involved in education for many years, both in leadership and administration. She is currently head of Mission Services at the Catholic Education Office Warragul. Rose has had a life long interest in theology and art and has studied art and archaeology in Rome. She has also led several pilgrimages to sacred Christian sites.

ANNE ELVEY

Anne is an experienced theologian and author who has taught sessionally at Australian Catholic University and United Faculty of Theology. Her work in eco theology is supported by the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Monash University. In 2005 Anne published *An Ecological Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Luke: A Gestational Paradigm* (Mellen, 2005) and during 2008 she was a Melbourne College of Divinity research scholar. Anne is also a poet of some note who has had her work published in several journals.

MARIA GUINAN

Maria is a Brigidine Sister with many years experience in education and leadership both in Secondary schools and in the Brigidine Congregation. From her studies in Scripture, Maria brings to the meditation sessions, much wisdom and creativity.

DENNIS HAWKEY

Dennis is a Minister of the Uniting Church of Australia. In addition to his theological and ministerial studies, Dennis has completed a Masters Degree in Celtic Studies from the University of Lampeter in Wales and has a keen interest in all matters Celtic, particularly in relation to Cornwall.

BARBARA HORRIGAN

Barbara is a family person: wife, mother and grandmother, as well as being a very experienced teacher and an actively involved member of Parish Adult Education Programs. Barbara has a Bachelor of Theology Degree and is passionate about exploring the role of women in the Church and in society.

VERONICA JOYCE

Veronica is a Brigidine Sister with many years experience in leadership in education and Parish ministry. To these positions she has always brought her considerable creative skills and her enthusiasm for involving others in various creative projects.

JOANNE KRAUSE

As well as being an experienced teacher, Joanne is a mother of six and a grandmother of four. She has been involved in patchwork quilting for over 15 years, and is teaching and exhibiting at a number of places. Joanne brings much creativity and a positive, reflective presence to the skills she demonstrates.

CORALIE LING

Coralie is a retired Minister of the Uniting Church of Australia, having served in ministry for 32 years. She has obtained a Doctorate in Ministry in Creative Ritual and is well known through her work in feminist liturgy, scripture and justice outreach projects. At present Coralie is President of the Women's Jewish, Christian, Muslim Association.

GWEN MASTERS

Gwen is a Minister of the Uniting Church of Australia, who has completed a Masters Degree in Celtic Studies from the University of Lampeter in Wales. For several years Gwen has been invited to be the Spiritual Director/Leader of the Celtic Pilgrimage which is an annual week long event in the North East of Victoria in November.

TRISH MURRAY

Trish is a Dominican Sister with training and many years of experience in Spiritual Direction and Retreat work both in Spirituality Centres and in a private capacity. Trish is available for personal direction and facilitates the *Retreat in Daily Life* as well as occasional reflection days at the Well.

ANGELA O'BRIEN

Angela is a well experienced teacher, who is also a wife, mother and grandmother. Her skills in needlecraft are many and the enthusiasm she engenders amongst those who join her, produces some stimulating conversation and exquisite handiwork.

MARIE O'KELLY

Marie, a Brigidine Sister, is currently a member of the team at Kildara Centre, specializing in the library. Marie has been an educator at all levels for many years. Her great interest is in literature and spirituality and her studies in Theology, Arts and Spirituality have developed her keen insights in these areas. Marie has also taught in adult education, particularly in the teaching of English as a second language to migrants and refugees.

MARY O' SHANNASSY

Mary is a Good Samaritan Sister with a wide experience in education and educational leadership. For the past seven years she has been the Director of Catholic Prison Ministry in Victoria. Mary will be our presenter for the September "Voices at the Well" evening.

KENNETH PARKER

Ken, an Anglican Priest, now Parish Priest of Castlemaine, has many years of experience in leading prayer and reflection days. With a passionate interest in art and literature, particularly Australian, Ken believes our poets and artists often offer us more insights about spirituality than our theologians.

DOROTHEA PINI

Dorothea is a Brigidine Sister with many years experience in Spirituality, Retreats and Spiritual Direction. She is now based in Melbourne and can easily be contacted for Spiritual Direction if required.

URSULA NIHILL

Ursula is a Brigidine Sister with many years of experience as an educator in Australia and in Papua New Guinea. She is currently a member of the team at Kildara Centre. Ursula brings her wisdom and creativity to the Contemplative Prayer sessions.

LISA SMITH

Lisa is a secondary school teacher who has almost completed her Masters in Archaeology at Latrobe University and has taken part in several archaeological digs both here and overseas.

MARIE STACK

Marie is a mother and grandmother who has completed an Honours Degree in History at Melbourne University and is an enthusiastic and committed member of Cairde Bhríde: Friends of Brigid. She is currently completing theological studies at Yarra Theological Union and brings a rich background to her facilitation of the World of our Ancestors group.

ANN TRINDADE

Prior to retiring in 2003, Ann taught early mediaeval history and culture, including several courses on early Christian Ireland, as Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. Ann studied at Oxford University, both as an undergraduate and a doctoral student. Between her MA and D Phil degrees, she also completed a post graduate Diploma in Theology at Oxford.

MARIE WATT

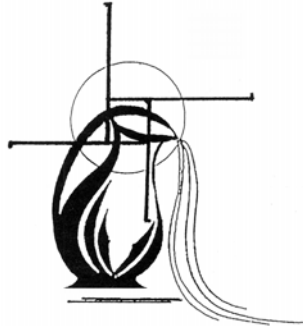
Marie is an educator with a deep interest in spirituality and its connection with people, land and story. Training in Australia and Rome has given her an understanding of the links between spirituality and psychology, whilst her involvement with Aboriginal people has deepened her appreciation of myth and story and the landscape which evokes them. Marie works privately with individuals as well as with groups in the exploration of the meaning of dreams. She has recently completed training in psycho drama.

DENIS WOODBRIDGE

Denis is a retired priest of the Anglican Church who lives in Mornington. An experienced Classics teacher for many years, Denis recently completed a Master of Celtic Studies with the University of Lampeter in Wales. His special interest is in the relationship between Franciscan and Celtic spirituality.

JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

This heart warming gospel story is part of our Christian heritage and it has become central to our Brigid's Well program here at Kildara Centre. When Jesus crosses the boundaries imposed by his society and culture and asks the woman for a drink, she enters into a conversation that changes her whole view of life.



A Samaritan woman came to draw water and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink".

The woman said to him, "How is it that you a Jew ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is asking you, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

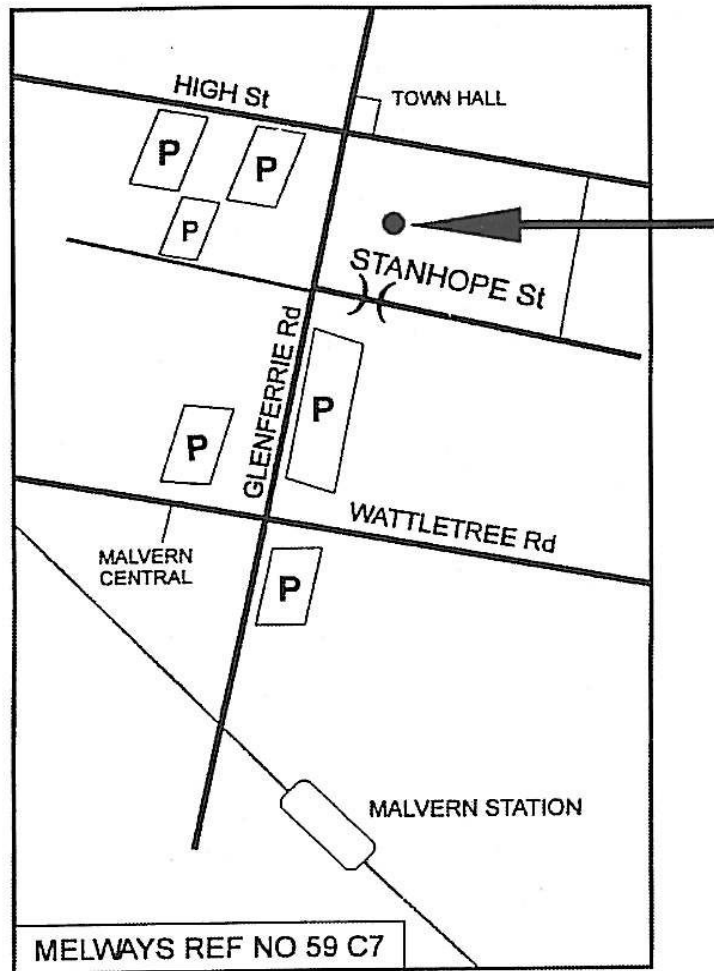
The woman said to him, "Where do you get this living water?"

Jesus said to her, "Everybody who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but one who drinks of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

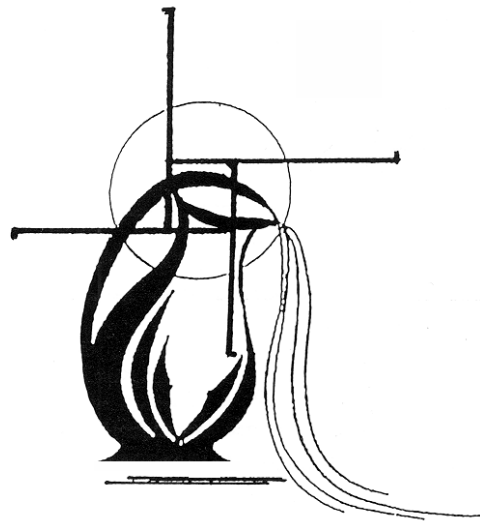
The water that I shall give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." John 4

left of St Joseph's Church



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THE BRIGIDINE SISTERS, VICTORIAN PROVINCE